

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2012

Present: Barbara Tallone, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice Chair; Barbara Willson, Secretary; Ann Corcoran, Treasurer; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Pat Ellis; Jim Papachristos; Paul Turner; Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen; Norma Wu, Liaison Friends of the COA.

Absent: Steve Baran; Sally Thompson; Sgt. Ray Grey, Liaison Police Department.

Call To Order: Barbara Tallone

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:45 on February 13, 2012 at the Senior Center.

Items Distributed at meeting or available electronically:

Agenda for COA meeting
Minutes of the COA Board meeting
Director's Report

Review of the Minutes of January 9, 2012

The minutes of the meeting were accepted unanimously with 2 corrections.

Director Report: Sharon Mercurio

Sharon attended regularly scheduled meetings of Department Heads, Employee Recognition, Senior Center Building Committee as well as an Emerson Hospital Collaborative and a Steering Committee. She met with the Directors of English at Large and the Acton Housing Authority.. She presented at Budget Saturday and the Board of Selectmen's meeting. She hosted a monthly meeting of Seniors at Risk and oriented a graduate student in Nursing from Salem State College.

Approximately 101 people entered the center each day this month. (front entrance data)
The building was utilized by committees four times.

Six programs were oversubscribed in January.

Plans for February include:

- luncheon by Recreation Department on Feb 9
- trips to Northboro and Hopkinton Senior Centers on Feb 15 and 29
- abatements and exemptions with Steve Barrett and Brian McMullen on Feb 21
- public forums regarding a new senior center on Feb 6 and 13
- 6 week poetry workshop
- program with Senator Eldridge and Representative Atkins
- AARP tax preparation Tuesdays and Thursdays
- veterans' agent office hours the last Tuesday of month
- ask a nurse

Senior Center Building Committee Report: Sharon Mercurio

Two public forums were held on February 6 and 13. Each forum was attended by approximately 45 individuals. Comments and questions were tabulated by Sharon Mercurio and will be distributed to COA Board members. Barbara Tallone reminded all

of the Primary Election on March 6 and Town elections on March 27. She will construct signs urging citizens to attend Town Meeting on April 2 and vote in favor of the \$140,000 which the selectmen are requesting for further development of the design of a new center. All willing to hold a sign at a polling place can get one at the Senior Center. Charlie Aaronson showed his video comparing the current Acton Senior Center and the Northboro Senior Center. A trip for seniors to tour the Northboro center is scheduled for February 15.

COA Board Goals : Barbara Tallone

The goal for this year was to increase recognition of volunteers. Discussion of a plan to continue this effort and to recruit more volunteers was deferred to the March meeting.

Liaison Board of Selectmen: Mike Gowing

Mike listed 3 current issues of importance for seniors:

- 1) inaction on the tax relief bill by the state legislature
- 2) depletion of the enterprise fund supporting the Acton Public Health Nursing Service resulting in high cost to the town (\$200,000 in 2012 and \$400,000 in 2013)
- 3) a free flight for WWII veterans to Washington DC to visit the War Memorial.

Liaison Friends of COA: Norma Wu

Response from the annual appeal yielded \$8403 to this point. The total in 2011 was approximately \$2000 more. There were 156 donations.

Senior Citizen Legislative Issues: Pat Ellis

The bill sponsored by Corey Atkins to support tax relief for seniors will not be considered by the state legislature. Under the Home Rule Petition, a town cannot do anything independently about tax relief.

Adjournment-Next Meeting: Barbara Tallone

The meeting adjourned at 5:00. The next meeting will be March 12, 2012 at 3:45 P.M. at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Willson, Secretary